



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

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January 22, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PD-3**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

**VAN BUREN AVENUE, ET AL.
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the Negative Declaration for the proposed project to widen and improve existing roadway conditions in the Athens area of unincorporated County of Los Angeles territory, concur that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County, and approve the Negative Declaration.
2. Adopt the enclosed Reporting Program to ensure compliance with the project and conditions adopted to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.
3. Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.
4. Find that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on wildlife resources, and authorize Public Works to complete and file a Certificate of Fee Exemption with the County Clerk.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed project is to make necessary repairs to the deteriorated roadways and to provide uniformity in roadway width. The proposed project is located in the Athens area of unincorporated County territory and consists of widening the existing roadway pavement and the reconstruction of driveway, curb and gutter, sidewalk, cross gutter, and drainage systems. The project also includes the relocation of existing and/or installation of new guide, regulatory, and warning signs; the removal of several trees; parkway tree planting; and the reconstruction of existing curb ramps in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

An environmental impact analysis/documentation is a California Environmental Quality Act requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental impacts of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, we are also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors indicated that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public review.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence. By implementing the proposed improvements, residents of the County who travel on these roadways will benefit from the enhanced mobility, traffic safety, and air quality.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding for construction of the project is proposed to be included in a future Road Fund budget. The estimated cost of the project is \$773,000. A construction contract will be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent on your approval of this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under California Environmental Quality Act, any lead agency preparing a Negative Declaration must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the Negative Declaration. To comply with this requirement, a Public Notice pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code was published in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* on November 20, 2003. Copies of the Negative Declaration were sent to the Crenshaw-Imperial and Mark Twain Branch Libraries for public review. Notices were mailed to residents in the vicinity of the project. Comments were received from Ms. Cora M. Moncrief and Mr. Jessie T. Henry during the public review period.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, the Negative Declaration determined that the project with necessary mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the Negative Declaration is requested at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The California Environmental Quality Act requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their action.

A fee must be paid to the Department of Fish and Game when certain notices required by California Environmental Quality Act are filed with the County Clerk. The County is exempt from paying this fee when the Board finds that a project will have no impacts on wildlife resources. The Initial Study of Environmental Factors concluded that there will be no adverse effects on wildlife resources. Upon approval of the Negative Declaration by your Board, we will file a Certificate of Fee Exemption with the County Clerk. A \$25 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for processing. We will also file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

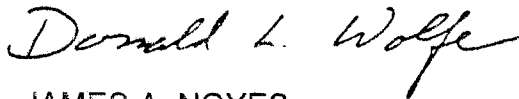
The project will not have a significant impact on current services or projects currently planned.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
January 22, 2004
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CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to us.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald L. Wolfe".

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

SDS:ph

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
VAN BUREN AVENUE, ET AL.

I. Location and Brief Description

The proposed project is located in the Athens area of unincorporated County of Los Angeles territory (see attached map). The proposed project consists of widening the existing roadway pavement and the reconstruction of driveway, curb and gutter, sidewalk, cross gutter and drainage systems. The project also includes the relocation of existing and/or installation of new guide, regulatory and warning signs; the removal of several trees; parkway tree planting; and the reconstruction of existing non-Americans with Disabilities Act compliant curb ramps in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

The purpose of the proposed project is to make necessary repairs to the deteriorated roadways and to provide uniformity in roadway width.

The proposed improvements would require right-of-way acquisition.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

No significant environmental effects were identified. However, mitigation measures are discussed in Section XVIII of the Initial Study.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

SDS

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Attach.

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title:** Van Buren Avenue, et al.
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Ms. Sarah D. Scott (626) 458-3916
4. **Project Location:** Athens area of unincorporated County of Los Angeles.
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
6. **General Plan Designation:** County of Los Angeles
7. **Zoning:** Urban Residential Development
8. **Description of Project:** The proposed project is located in the Athens area of unincorporated County of Los Angeles territory. The proposed project consists of widening the existing roadway pavement and the reconstruction of driveway, curb and gutter, sidewalk, cross gutter and drainage systems. The project also includes the relocation of existing and/or installation of new guide, regulatory and warning signs; the removal of several trees; parkway tree planting; and the reconstruction of existing non-Americans with Disabilities Act compliant curb ramps in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
9. **Surrounding Land Use and Settings:**
 - A. **Project Site-**The proposed project is located east of Normandie Avenue, south of Century Boulevard, west of Vermont Avenue, and just north of Imperial Highway.
 - B. **Surrounding Properties-**The surrounding properties are primarily medium-density residential properties. The project is located in an urbanized setting within the unincorporated Athens area of County of Los Angeles. Wildlife that may occur in the area is a variety of birds, lizards, domestic animals, and insects.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):** None

SDS:ph

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Sarah D. Scott

Signature

October 14, 2003

Date

Sarah D. Scott

Printed Name

LACDPW

For

ATTACHMENT A

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

VAN BUREN AVENUE, ET AL.

I. AESTHETICS - Would the proposal:

- a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

No impact. The proposed project is not in proximity to any scenic vista.

- b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?*

No impact. The proposed project will not damage trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or any other scenic resources within a State scenic highway.

- c) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

Less than significant impact. Several trees will be removed to accommodate the proposed road widening. Trees will be replanted at agreed locations. The general characteristics will not be altered. Thus, no significant adverse visual impacts are anticipated to occur from the implementation of the project.

- d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

No impact. The proposed project will not introduce any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within a predominately residential area which is presently developed. The project location is not used for agricultural purposes or as a farmland. Thus, the project will have no impact on farmland.

- b) ***Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?***

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with any zoning for agricultural use. Thus, the project will not impact any existing zoning for agricultural use.

- c) ***Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?***

No impact. Public Works currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The proposed project will not conflict with the current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

- b) ***Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?***

Less than significant impact. Construction-related emissions and dust would be emitted during project construction. However, the effect would be temporary and would not significantly alter the ambient air quality of the area. Construction activities would be restricted to the construction times allowed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means, such as sweeping and/or watering, and comply with applicable air pollution regulations. The impacts would be temporary and considered less than significant.

- c) ***Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project construction will not lead to emissions which exceed thresholds for ozone precursors. The project implementation would improve existing and projected vehicle traffic flows and circulation through the area. Thus, truck and motor vehicle emissions are not expected to increase. Therefore, the project is expected to have a less than significant impact on ambient air quality.

- d) ***Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?***

Less than significant impact. Sensitive receptors in the area may be subjected to dust and construction equipment emissions during the project construction. Project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means such as sweeping and/or watering and comply with all applicable air pollution control regulations. The impact is considered to be less than significant, since exposure would be temporary and precautions will be taken to mitigate exposure of pollutants. After construction, traffic flow is expected to improve and concentrated vehicle emissions are expected to decrease.

- e) ***Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?***

Less than significant impact. Objectionable odors may be generated by diesel trucks used for the construction of the project. These types of odors will be short-term and temporary. Therefore, the impact of creating objectionable odor is considered less than significant.

IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:**

- a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

No impact. No sensitive or special status species, or any species identified as a candidate in local or regional plans, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to exist at the project site. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on sensitive or special status species or their respective habitat.

- b) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

No impact. The project would be constructed in an existing roadway. No impacts to a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would occur.

- c) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve a wetland habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact wetland habitat.

- d) ***Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?***

No impact. There are no migratory wildlife corridors located at the proposed project location. Also, the project is not proposed within a watercourse of any fish habitat. Therefore, there will be no impact on resident or migratory fish or wildlife nursery sites.

- e) ***Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?***

No impact. No known locally protected biological resources exist at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) ***Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?***

No impact. No known adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan exists within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on any of these plans.

V. **CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:**

- a-d) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries?***

No impact. No known paleontological, archaeological, and historical resources exist in the project area. However, if any cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during construction, the contractor shall cease the project and contact a specialist to examine the project site as required by project specifications. Thus, the effect of the proposed project on these resources is not considered significant.

VI. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the proposal:**

- a) ***Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***
- i) ***Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.***

No impact. There are no known active faults underlying the project site and we do not anticipate a fault rupture occurring at the project site.

- ii) ***Strong seismic ground shaking?***

No impact. The proposed project does not require any earthwork. The project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. Thus, the activities related to the project will not trigger a strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No impact. The project area is not known to have suffered any liquefaction or identified as a potential liquefaction area. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on liquefaction.

iv) Landslides?

No impact. The project location is in a residential area, consisting of flat terrain. It does not contain any geologic features (i.e., hills or mountains) which may adversely cause landslides. Therefore, the project will have no impact on landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No impact. The existing topography would not be altered. Therefore, the project construction will have no impact on soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

No impact. The proposed project site is not known to be on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable. Thus, the project will have no impact on unstable soil or a geologic unit.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No impact. The soil at the project location is not considered expansive. Soil expansion is not expected at the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact soil expansion.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No impact. There are no septic tanks or sewer pipes at the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the proposal:

- a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the project would have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b-c) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or wastes within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?***

Less than significant impact. Combustion engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical clean up. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in hazardous emissions or a hazardous substance spillage; thus, the project impact on the public or environment is considered to be less than significant.

- d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?***

No impact. The project site is not known to be a hazardous materials site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on hazardous materials.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is within two miles of a public use airport; however, the proposed construction would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) ***For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact relating to airstrip safety for people residing or working in the project area.

- g) ***Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

Less than significant impact. During project construction, the streets may be closed to through traffic during daylight working hours causing short-term vehicle delays. However, local access will be maintained at all times. Access will be permitted at all times during construction. The project specifications will require the contractor to maintain emergency access at all times during construction. Also, the project specifications will require the contractor to give advance notice of all street closures and detours to all emergency service agencies. Therefore, the project impact on the emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan will be less than significant.

- h) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?***

No impact. The project site is developed and in an urbanized area with no flammable brush wildlands located in the vicinity. Thus, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a risk involving wildland fires.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?***

No impact. The proposed project is not within a watercourse and is, therefore, not anticipated to have an effect on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements within a water body. However, the contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued

to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have no impact on hydrology or water quality.

- b) ***Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?***

No impact. The proposed project would not result in the use of any water that would result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the groundwater table. Thus, no impacts to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge are expected to occur

- c-d) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?***

Less than significant impact. The existing drainage facilities will accommodate the proposed project. The construction activities would slightly change the topography of ground surface relief features but would not alter the present flow patterns. The overall drainage pattern within the area will remain unchanged. Therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on erosion, siltation, or on the rate of surface runoff.

- e) ***Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would increase the amount of impermeable surface area by approximately 5,200 square feet. However, the construction of the project will not result in significant additional surface water runoff. Construction is scheduled during dry periods. The contractor will take precaution to ensure that any hazardous chemicals are kept away from the vicinity of stormwater drains or any surface runoff. Thus, the impact of the proposed project on the existing or planned stormwater drainage systems is considered less than significant.

- f) ***Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

No impact. The contractor will adhere to applicable Best Management

Practices to minimize any degradation to water quality during construction. Therefore, the project is not expected to impact or degrade water quality.

- g) *Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?***

No impact. Existing flood hazards are established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map Community-Panel No. 065043 0920 B, the proposed project site is located in Flood Hazard Zone "C." A Flood Hazard Zone "C" is defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency as an area of minimal flooding. Implementation of the proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

- h) *Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?***

No impact. The proposed project will not place any structures within a 100-year flood which would impede or redirect flood flows.

- i) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?***

No impact. The proposed project will not impact any drainage facility. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or property to water related hazards.

- j) *Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?***

No impact. The proposed project will not cause any inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the proposal:

a) *Physically divide an established community?*

No impact. The project would not introduce a barrier which would divide the physical arrangement of the established business community.

b) *Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

No impact. The project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of the County of Los Angeles.

c) *Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

No impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan adopted by any agency or community.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the proposal:

a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

No impact. The proposed project would not deplete any mineral resource and would therefore, have no impact on mineral resources.

b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

No impact. The project site is not identified as a resource recovery site in the local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on a locally-important mineral resource recovery site.

XI. NOISE - Would the proposal result in:

- a) *Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

Less than significant impact. The noise level may rise minimally due to an increase in road capacity. However, this minimal increase will be consistent with the noise associated with traffic in an urban environment. Also, noise levels within the proposed project site would increase during construction activities. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The contractor will be required to comply with the construction hours specified in the County noise control ordinances. Noise levels due to vehicular operation along the improved roadway, when completed, are anticipated to be less than minimal from current levels. Overall, since the construction period will last for a short period, the project would not expose people to severe noise levels; thus, the impact to severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

- b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?***

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed project would require the use of equipment that would generate groundborne vibration or groundborne noise vibration. However, the project specifications would require the contractor to comply with all noise laws and ordinances. The project impact would be considered less than significant since construction would be for a short period and would not expose people to severe noise levels.

- c-d) *A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project or a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed improvements will widen the roadway but will not increase the number of vehicle trips. During the construction phase of the project, there will be a nominal increase in existing noise levels due to construction and transportation of material to and from the project site. Due to the short-term nature of the project, the impact will be less than significant. Also, construction activities will be between 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- e-f) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels or for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within two miles of a public airport; however, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?***

No impact. The proposed project involves widening the roadway with no increase in traffic lanes. The roadway traffic is not expected to increase. Since the project area and surroundings are built-out already, the road improvement is not expected to alter the growth rate of the human population in the area.

- b-c) ***Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere or displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

No impact. The proposed project will not displace existing houses nor displace people, which would create a demand for housing. The proposed project would have a beneficial impact for the area by improving the roadway conditions.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?***

No impact. The goal of the proposed project is to improve the existing road conditions by making necessary roadway repairs. Thus, the project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. However, the County will coordinate with the police and fire departments regarding construction scheduling to prevent response time delays. After the construction has been completed, improved road conditions would benefit the fire department and police services in having a quicker response time.

XIV. RECREATION - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

No impact. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

- b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

No impact. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?***

Less than significant impact. The construction of the proposed project may cause minor delay in traffic due to limited access during construction. However, this impact is only during construction and, therefore, is temporary and short-lived. Implementation of the proposed project is not expected to generate additional vehicular movement after construction. Thus, the impact of the proposed project is considered less than significant.

- b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?***

Less than significant impact. The minor increase in traffic congestion in the project area due to construction is temporary. The proposed project is not expected to change the level of service on the roadway. Therefore, the impact on level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways will be less than significant.

- c) ***Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve any design features or incompatible uses constituting safety hazards.

- e) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?***

Less than significant impact. Traffic will temporarily be impacted during project construction since the project will require limited access. Also, the presence of construction equipment on the street may slow down traffic. However, access for emergencies will be maintained at all times. The Los Angeles County fire, police, and paramedic services will be notified of the schedule and duration of construction activities. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project on emergency access is considered less than significant.

f) *Result in inadequate parking capacity?*

Less than significant impact. During construction of the proposed project, parking may be restricted during daylight working hours. This will be temporary and short-lived. The project specifications will require the contractor to give advance notice of parking restrictions and suggested alternatives. Therefore, the impact on inadequate parking capacity is considered less than significant.

g) *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?*

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the proposal:

a) *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

No impact. The project will not result in contamination or an increase in discharge of wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

c) *Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

d) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water supplies. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water supply entitlements and resources.

- e) ***Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?***

No impact. No increase in the number of wastewater discharge facilities will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment.

- f-g) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs and comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

No impact. The proposed project will not generate any significant amount of solid waste. Any solid waste generated will be disposed of by the contractor in accordance to all Federal, State, and local regulations relating to solid waste. Therefore, there will be no impact on landfill capacity.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Would the proposal:

- a) ***Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

No impact. Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the quality of the environment.

- b) ***Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)***

No impact. The proposed project is designed to improve roadway conditions. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulative considerable.

- c) ***Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

No impact. The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

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1" top margin

ATTACHMENT B

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

RECEIVED ON THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Presented below are the responses to written comments received during circulation for the Initial Study/Negative Declaration regarding the proposed Van Buren Avenue, et al. project. Response to comments that raise environmental issues, as required by State of California Environmental Quality Act guidelines. ~~A copy~~ of the letters received ~~is~~ ^{are} included ^{on} the following pages. ^{Copies}

Response to letter of comment received from Ms. Cora M. Moncrief and Mr. Jessie T. Henry

1-1 Thank you for your response and your comments have been noted.

December 3, 2003

Sarah D. Scott
Programs Development Division, 11th Fl.
County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

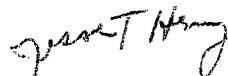
Re: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration Van Buren Avenue

Ms. Scott:

I am writing in favor of the improvements in the proposal. Our street needs everything listed. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 30 years and it has never gotten the same attention and upkeep that the surrounding streets have received. Van Buren Avenue needs help.

I vote "Yes!" Please fix our street. **I support the improvements.**

Yours truly,



Jessie T. Henry
11249 South Van Buren Ave.
L.A., CA 90044

Cora M. Moncrief
11253 S. Van Buren Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90044
CoMo2Go@aol.com

December 3, 2003

Ms. Sarah D. Scott
Programs Development Division, 11th Floor
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Re: Notice of Intent To Adopt A Negative Declaration Van Buren Avenue, et al.

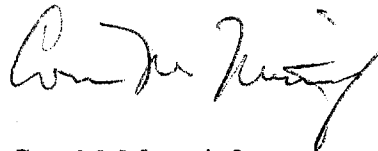
Dear Ms. Scott:

I am a resident of Van Buren Avenue and am writing to express my **full support** for the improvements proposed for our street. We are in desperate need of the street widening, reconstruction of driveways, curbs, drainage systems, and all the other improvements listed in the proposal. Van Buren Avenue is long overdue for these improvements. The streets on either side (and beyond) were improved almost 20 years ago and Van Buren has been neglected and ignored prior to this time.

I grew up on this block and returned as adult to buy a home, primarily because I *do* care about our community and the need to purchase-and-live in Southwest Los Angeles. We would have more people willing to buy homes in this area if the neighborhoods looked better and it was safer to navigate up and down our streets. It's homeowners who are interested in the upkeep and maintenance of neighborhoods. I urge you to implement these proposed improvements.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to express our opinions.

Sincerely,



Cora M. Moncrief

**PROGRAM FOR REPORTING AND MONITORING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
MITIGATION MEASURES**

VAN BUREN AVENUE, ET AL.

The following program will be used to monitor and implement the mitigation measures discussed in Section XVIII of the Negative Declaration.

1.0 Program Management

- 1.1 After adoption of environmental mitigation measures by the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works shall designate responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with each mitigation measure.
- 1.2 To facilitate implementation and enforcement of this program, Public Works shall ensure that the obligation to monitor and report compliance with environmental mitigation measures is required by all project-related contracts between the County and consultant, prime construction contractor, and any other person or entity who is designated to monitor and/or report compliance under this program during the preconstruction and construction phases.
- 1.3 Public Works, as appropriate, shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that each project-related environmental mitigation measure, which was adopted, is implemented and maintained.

2.0 Preconstruction

- 2.1 Public Works or consultant for project design is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures into the project design and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.
- 2.2 Public Works or consultant for design of project-related off-site improvements is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

3.0 Construction

- 3.1 Public Works or the prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for constructing and/or monitoring the construction of mitigation measures incorporated in final construction documents and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

- 3.2 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for implementation and/or monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures affecting methods and practices of construction (e.g., hours of operation, noise control of machinery) and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.
- 3.3 Public Works is responsible for monitoring compliance of prime construction contractor(s) with responsibility set forth in 3.1 and 3.2 above and reporting noncompliance in writing.

4.0 **Project Operation**

- 4.1 After completion and final acceptance of the project, Public Works is responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with adopted mitigation measures, which affect project operation.

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